



United States Marshals Service

Justice Integrity Service



## REGIONAL FUGITIVE TASK FORCES

### *CATCH OF THE WEEK*

Week of February 13th, 2006

### *Taking the Worst of the Worst Off the Streets*

#### **Pacific Southwest Regional Fugitive Task Force**

Antonio Acosta Hernandez was arrested on February 14, 2006 in San Diego, California by members of the Pacific Southwest Regional Task Force (PSWRFTF), deputy United States marshals from both the Central and Southern Districts of California, detectives from the Santa Ana Police Department, and San Diego police officers. Hernandez was wanted by the Santa Ana, California Police Department for multiple counts of kidnapping, false imprisonment, assault with a deadly weapon, carjacking, spousal abuse, child endangerment, burglary, and violation of a protective order. The charges against Hernandez allege that at 4:00 a.m. on February 14, 2006, he went to a residence where his ex-girlfriend and their 4-year-old son were staying, forced entry into the residence and kidnapped them at knifepoint. Hernandez had a history of physically abusing the victim, who moved in with other family in an effort to hide from him. Hernandez was able to flee from the area with the victims prior to the arrival of police officers responding to a call for assistance. The Santa Ana Police Department contacted the PSWRFTF and requested assistance in locating and apprehending Hernandez. Over the next 15 hours, PSWRFTF and Santa Ana PD investigators worked diligently to find Hernandez and the victims. During the course of their investigation, they developed information that Hernandez fled to the San Diego area, but were unable to determine a specific address. Investigators assigned to the Orange County Division of the PSWRFTF contacted their counterparts in the PSWRFTF's San Diego division and requested that they attempt to refine the available information. The two divisions joined forces, and through further investigation, located a vehicle associated with Hernandez in the Valencia Park section of San Diego. San Diego Police Department officers executed a felony vehicle stop of the vehicle and arrested Hernandez without incident. The female victim and the 4-year-old boy were also in the vehicle and were rescued unharmed.



**Antonio Hernandez**

**Wanted for  
Kidnapping, False  
Imprisonment, Assault  
with a Deadly  
Weapon, Carjacking,  
Spousal Abuse, Child  
Endangerment,  
Burglary and  
Violation of a  
Protective Order**

### New York/New Jersey Regional Fugitive Task Force

Shawn L. Cook, a known member of the “Bloods” street gang, was wanted by the Camden County (NJ) Prosecutor’s Office and the Camden City Police Department on charges of criminal attempted murder. Cook was also wanted by the Burlington County (NJ) Prosecutor’s Office and the Willingboro (NJ) Police Department on charges of criminal attempted murder and murder. On February 6, 2006, Cook, along with four other individuals who have since been captured, proceeded to Willingboro, New Jersey for the purpose of killing two brothers. Cook allegedly used a shotgun to shoot the victims. The attack resulted in the death of one of the brothers, critically injuring the other. The attack was connected to gang-related retaliation. Following the attack, the suspects drove back to the Camden City area and pulled into the parking lot of a liquor store. After parking the car, Cook used the shotgun to shoot the driver of the vehicle he was in. The shooting critically injured the victim. On February 20, 2006, a Pennsauken Police Department patrol unit observed Cook’s vehicle and alerted members of the NY/NJ Regional Fugitive Task Force (NY/NJ RFTF) of the vehicle’s location. Members of the NY/NJ RFTF immediately responded and initiated surveillance on the subject’s vehicle, which was parked in front of a residence in Camden City. Further investigation revealed that the subject recently left the residence in another vehicle, but was scheduled to return later that evening. At approximately 7:30 p.m. a taxi arrived at the target location. Task Force members observed Cook exit the taxi, and safely arrested him.

**“Bloods” street gang member**



**Shawn Cook**

**Wanted for Murder and Attempted Murder**

### Capital Area Regional Fugitive Task Force

Jose Nelson Otero was wanted by Maryland State Police (MSP) for multiple sex offenses against a child, including sexual assault, 2<sup>nd</sup> degree rape, 3 counts of sex offense, sexual abuse of a minor, 3 counts of attempted sex offense, sodomy, and attempted 2<sup>nd</sup> degree rape. His victim was highlighted on the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children website. MSP requested assistance from the Capital Area Regional Fugitive Task Force (CARFTF). CARFTF members, with assistance from Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE), began pursuing Otero immediately. Ultimately, information was received on February 17, 2006 that Otero fled the D.C. Metro Area and was staying in Oyster Bay, New York. CARFTF officers contacted the New York/New Jersey Regional Fugitive Task Force (NY/NJRFTF), which mobilized immediately. The NY/NJ RFTF responded to the address in Orchard Bay, where Otero was captured attempting to flee out the back window.



**Jose Otero**

**Wanted for Sexual Assault, 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Rape, 3 Counts of Sex Offense, Sexual Abuse of a Minor, 3 Counts of Attempted Sex Offense, Sodomy, and Attempted 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Rape**

## **Southeast Regional Fugitive Task Force**

On February 28, 2006, members of the Southeast Regional Fugitive Task Force (SERFTF) arrested Lisa Howard at a home in Douglasville, Georgia. She was charged with hindering the apprehension of a fugitive by the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice. Clark made national headlines in the fall of 2005 when Hall County (GA) authorities first arrested the former school teacher for child molestation and statutory rape just days after her November 2005 marriage in Dawson County (GA) to her teenage boyfriend. Clark, 37, who carried on a long-term affair with her son's 15-year-old best friend, became pregnant by the boy, and then secretly married him. She was later released from custody on a \$10,000 bond, with the condition that she have no further contact with the boy. Later, while free on bond, authorities found that she communicated with her teenage husband, violating her conditional release. The boy groom had been in the custody of the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice at a group home in Decatur, Georgia where he was ordered to reside for violating probation on charges of burglary and marijuana possession. He absconded from the group home and disappeared, supposedly with the assistance of Clark. Clark subsequently went on several national talk shows claiming she had nothing to do with the troubled boy's disappearance. On February 7, 2006, members of the SERFTF began a surveillance of Clark at the Douglasville home where she was staying. She was observed going to a check cashing store at 4:30 p.m. It was determined that Clark placed cash on a prepaid MasterCard belonging to a friend of a friend in Ashtabula, Ohio. At approximately 5:00 p.m., Clark went to a UPS package store and mailed a cellular phone to the same person. Investigators determined that the money and phone were intended for her juvenile husband, and that she had, in fact, helped him plan his escape from the home. A collateral lead was sent to the USMS Northern Ohio Violent Fugitive Task Force (NOVFTF), and through their investigation, they were able to determine that the boy was indeed inside the residence in Ashtabula. On the morning of February 8, 2006, Task Force members approached the residence in an attempt to apprehend the subject. He was discovered in an upstairs bedroom and arrested. He was then transported to the Ashtabula Youth Detention Facility and held until his return to Georgia. The cell phone sent by Clark was recovered and seized as evidence. Clark recently gave birth to the couple's child, and her case continues to make national news.



**Lisa Howard**

**Wanted for Hindering  
the Apprehension of a  
Fugitive**

## Great Lakes Regional Fugitive Task Force

On February 8, 2006, Amos “Rayshon” Armstrong was arrested by members of the Great Lakes Regional Fugitive Task Force (GLRFTF) and Downers Grove (IL) Police Department. Armstrong was wanted by the Michigan State Police for murder and armed robbery in Muskegon Heights, Michigan. In January of 2006, Armstrong and his associates conducted 5 home invasions in Muskegon County (MI). During these robberies, Armstrong pistol whipped, fired shots near, and forced home owners to give him cash and other valuables. On January 31, 2006, Armstrong invaded another Muskegon County residence, killing the homeowner when he refused Armstrong’s demands. Armstrong then poured gasoline over the victim’s body and throughout his home. After igniting the home, Armstrong fled both the scene and Michigan. On February 8, 2006, personnel from the GLRFTF and the U.S. Marshals Technical Operations Group (TOG) developed information in conjunction with the Downers Grove PD that Armstrong fled Michigan to a relative’s apartment in Downers Grove. Due to Armstrong’s violent tendencies, and the likelihood of Armstrong using a firearm, the Downers Grove SWAT Team was deployed. After GLRFTF and TOG personnel confirmed Armstrong was inside the apartment, SWAT proceeded to the residence. Armstrong initially refused to exit the residence and remained inside the apartment with a teenage male and a 1-year-old infant. After an hour, hostage negotiators were able to successfully persuade Armstrong to exit the apartment peacefully. Armstrong was immediately taken into custody, and awaits extradition to Michigan.



**Amos Armstrong**

**Wanted for Murder  
and Armed Robbery**